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REVIEW

Northwest Botanical Manuscripts. An indexed register of the papers, 1867-1957, of Wilhelm Nicholas Suksdorf, William Conklin Cusick, Charles Vancouver Piper, Rolla Kent Beattie, and Harold St. John. By TERRY ABRAHAM. 64pp., 7 illus. Washington State University Library, Pullman. 1976. \$5.00.

Botanical exploration of a country moves from travellers to residents, from the surgeon naturalist with the expedition to the storekeeper, ranchman or local physician whose keen interest in the local flora leads him afield. We now have a shelf of biographies of the explorers of Pacific Northwest: Douglas, Tolmie, Nuttall, Wilkes, Cook, Vancouver, LaPerouse, Lewis, and others. Terry Abraham, archivist at Pullman, has provided a checklist of the letters and papers of five important resident botanists: W. C. Cusick, whose papers date from 1906 to 1924; C. V. Piper, from 1888 to 1926; R. K. Beattie, from 1899 to 1956; W. N. Suksdorf, from 1867 to 1935; and H. St. John, from 1912 to 1957.

Two botanists had planned to write a history of botany in the Pacific Northwest, Albert Raddin Sweetser and R. K. Beattie. The Sweetser papers dating from 1897 to 1935, at the University of Oregon Library, are summarized in the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, 1959-1961* (1962) p. 73. They contain copies of letters and documents related to such a history, but his death in 1940 curtailed his plan. The Beattie papers at Pullman, numbering over 350 titles, listed in this publication, were likewise collected with a history in view. But Beattie died in 1960. The historian interested in tracing early figures or topics for this region will profit particularly from these two collections. For later twentieth century subjects, the letters at Pullman will likely prove most useful. The "Correspondence Index," pages 38-62, will ease the search since all five collections are integrated in this single index. Some

of the representative multiple entries include: L. R. Abrams, the Brandegees, F. V. Coville, A. Eastwood, M. L. Fernald, J. B. Flett, Martin Gorman, J. M. Greenman, H. M. Hall, A. A. Heller, A. S. Hitchcock, T. Holm, T. J. Howell, W. L. Jepson, I. M. Johnston, M. E. Jones, W. R. Maxon, A. Nelson, F. W. Pennell, B. L. Robinson, J. N. Rose, C. S. Sargent, W. A. Setchell, J. K. Small, W. Trelease, and C. A. Weatherby.

Abraham has prefaced his checklist of manuscripts with "a historic overview" of Northwest botany and illustrated it with photographs of the five botanists, unfortunately undated, and a group photograph of Harold St. John, then age 32, and associates, taken at the Pullman commencement of June 9, 1928. The "overview" includes some erroneous statements, for example, (1) that "Eaton's manual . . . has only an incomplete list . . . of eastern plants." Beginning with the fifth edition of the *Manual* (1829) western species were included, for example, *Pinus flexilis* (p. 331), *Quercus agrifolia* (p. 354), *Acer macrophyllum* (p. 90), *Vaccinium ovatum* (p. 434), etc. The eighth edition (1840) included California and Rocky Mountain species (see p. 16). (2) Abraham's statement that Pursh's plants were lost for nearly a century ignores the fact that Lambert's herbarium was consulted freely by botanists until its dispersal by auction in 1842. It was the American Philosophical Society series of Lewis and Clark collections that were "lost". (3) "Gray's Manual . . . through all its many nineteenth century editions never included the flora of the state of Washington" is indeed a strange statement! The scope of Gray's *Manual* was patently stated to be the *northeastern* United States. (4) To say T. J. Howell's *Flora* was "deficient in the identifying keys needed by the practicing botanists" and that it "did not prove very successful" can only reflect a want of understanding of Howell the botanist. "Considering the circumstances of its production," wrote W. L. Jepson in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, "his [*Flora*] is balanced, judicious, and highly useful." That Howell's *Flora* was not a mere compilation but rested on his own field studies—more than 50 species were new—was the mark of a vigorous mind.

To overlook Louis F. Henderson in an overview of Northwest botany would be unfortunate. He was in the first scientific party to enter the rain forest of the Olympic Peninsula (E. P. Thatcher in *Call Number* [Library University of Oregon] 22(1):20. 1960). A carefully prepared thesis entitled "A Contribution toward a bibliography of Oregon botany with notes on the botanical explorers of the state" by Katherine W. Hughes (*Oregon State College Thesis Series* 14, 1940), 93 pages, mimeographed, supplements Abrahams' very useful checklist.—JOSEPH EWAN, Department of Biology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

BOOKS RECEIVED AND LITERATURE OF INTEREST

Nevada postal history 1861-1972. By Robert P. Harris. Nevada Publications, Box 15444, Las Vegas, NV 89113. 1973. \$9.50 buckram. Of interest to botanists because of the large number of local and now "extinct" place names.

Native plants for use in the California landscape. By Emile L. Labadie. Sierra City Press, Box 2, Sierra City, CA 96125. 1978. \$8.95 paper. A quote from p. 93 perhaps characterizes the botanical sophistication of this potentially useful book: "*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* . . . Flowers: Male flowers are bright red catkins."